



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of February 21, 2009**

**DATE:** January 30, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Project Agreements Between The County Board and Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, For Arlington County Commuter Services Program Grant Contracts and Appropriation of Grant Funds For Such Purposes.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approve the attached Project Agreement between the County Board and Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, for use of Federal Highway Administration Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funds FY 2009 CM-5401(943) in the amount of \$2,800,000; authorize the County Manager to execute the Agreement and all related documents on behalf of the County Board; subject to approval of such Agreement and documents as to form by the County Attorney; and accept any funds awarded to the County.
2. Approve the attached Project Agreement between the County Board and Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, for use of Commonwealth Transportation Funds FY 2009 in the amount of \$700,000; authorize the County Manager to execute the Agreement and other related documents on behalf of the County Board; subject to approval of such Agreements and documents as to form by the County Attorney; and accept any funds awarded to the County.
3. Appropriate \$1,144,540 in grant revenues (101.346004.41150) to the FY 2009 Commuter Services Program, Transportation Planning (101.456000.41150).

**ISSUES:** Additional State and Federal funds cannot be accepted and appropriated for specified activities until the above recommendations are approved by the County Board.

**SUMMARY:** The Arlington County Commuter Services (“ACCS”) program is funded primarily using State and Federal transportation funds. Each year, ACCS staff submits grant applications to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for the purpose of funding various projects and programs that influence people to increase use of transportation options such as transit, walking, bicycling, car/vanpooling, carsharing, and telecommuting. The Project Agreements recommended for execution have been approved by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (“DRPT”) and fund on-going operational/marketing expenses of ACCS program.

County Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

County Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: Paul E. Culver, Dept. of Environmental Services – Transportation Division

**BACKGROUND:** Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (“CMAQ”) funds are important sources of transportation funding for the County. Each fall the Board approves a prioritized list of CMAQ funding requests for submittal to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (“NVTA”). The FY 2009 CMAQ grant application was considered by the County Board at its September 8, 2007 meeting. The application was filed and ultimately awarded by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

**DISCUSSION:** Attached are two grant agreements that need approval for execution to help fund ACCS: the “Agreement for the use of Federal Highway Administration Congestion Mitigation Air Quality – Fiscal Year 2009” for \$2,800,000 and the “Project Agreement for Use of Commonwealth Transportation Funds Fiscal Year 2009” for \$700,000, which funds the required 20-percent local match of the CMAQ grant. The ACCS program relies on CMAQ and State matching grants to fund nearly half of its annual operating budget. The total grant funds awarded to ACCS in FY 2009 are \$3,500,000, of which \$2,355,460 has already been approved by the County Board. Therefore, the remaining amount of \$1,144,540 needs to be appropriated to the FY 2009 ACCS program.

These grants will help fund the FY 2009 work plan of continuing the Commuter Stores operations in Crystal City, Ballston, Rosslyn and Shirlington as well as Mobile Stores that provide Arlington and Metro-area customers with tickets, tokens and passes for all regional transit systems. The outreach, promotion and distribution of alternative transportation information have taken on new importance to help retain and attract new business/residential communities by supporting their transportation needs for employees, residents and visitors. Last year, 582 employers representing 124,038 employees (approximately 62% of the market), 295 residential clients representing 59,726 units (approximately 85% of the market), and 42 hotel clients received assistance with transit ridership, biking, walking, ridesharing and other alternatives to driving alone. Six companies (employing approximately 3,800 employees) received relocation services and staff assisted 33 owners or developers of properties (which are subject to approved site plans) with Arlington’s transportation demand management adherence.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Since FY 2006, the State has provided the match for CMAQ funds, so no local match is required from Arlington. With the appropriation of \$1,114,540 in grant revenues, the FY 2009 ACCS revenue will be \$6,998,465 to be used for projects and programs approved by the County Board.